

Citizens Health Care Working Group

Listening Sessions, Mississippi Rural Health

**Sponsored/organized by the
Mississippi State University Extension Service**

Summary Data Sheet

**Citizens Health Care Working Group
Listening Sessions
Rural Mississippi Session Summary**

Percent	Total A	
		Are you male or female?
25.9%	36	1 Male
73.4%	102	2 Female
0.7%	1	3 No Response

Percent	Total B	
		How old are you?
2.9%	4	1 Under 25
20.7%	29	2 25 to 44
57.9%	81	3 45 to 64
18.6%	26	4 Over 65

Percent	Total C	
		Are you Hispanic or Latino?
0.7%	1	1 Yes
94.2%	130	2 No
5.1%	7	3 No Response

Percent	Total D	
		Which of these groups best represents your race?
52.2%	72	1 White
46.4%	64	2 Black or African American
0.0%	0	3 Asian
0.0%	0	4 Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander
0.0%	0	5 American Indian or Alaska Native
0.0%	0	6 Other
1.4%	2	7 Decline to answer

Percent	Total E	
		What is the highest grade or year of school you completed?
3.6%	5	1 Elementary (grades 1 to 8)
10.9%	15	2 Some high school
10.9%	15	3 High school graduate or GED
6.5%	9	4 Some college
5.1%	7	5 Associate Degree
19.6%	27	6 Bachelor's Degree
42.8%	59	7 Graduate or professional degree
0.7%	1	8 Decline to answer

Percent	Total F	
		List sources of health care coverage
52.6%	81	1 Employer-based insurance
11.7%	18	2 Self-purchased insurance
2.6%	4	3 Veterans'
14.9%	23	4 Medicare
3.9%	6	5 Medicaid
5.2%	8	6 Other
8.4%	13	7 None
0.6%	1	8 Not sure

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Percent Total G

What is your employment status?

12.3%	17	1 Self-employed
52.2%	72	2 Employed - working full time
21.0%	29	3 Employed - working part-time
2.9%	4	4 Not employed / currently looking for work
0.7%	1	5 Homemaker
10.9%	15	6 Other (eg., Retired)

Percent Total H

Which one of these statements do you think best describes the U.S. health care system today?

35.3%	48	1 It is in a state of crisis
60.3%	82	2 It has major problems
2.2%	3	3 It has minor problems
0.7%	1	4 It does not have any problems
1.5%	2	5 No opinion

Percent Total I

Which one of the following do you think is the MOST important reason to have health insurance?

45.3%	62	1 To pay for everyday medical expenses
54.7%	75	2 To protect against high medical costs
0.0%	0	3 No opinion

J

As we consider ways to improve our health care system, what values and/or principles do you believe are fundamental? And which of the following values/principles is most important to you?

Avg	Total	SESSION A
9.3	1,528	Affordability
9.3	1,831	Quality of care
9.0	3,185	Accessibility
8.7	1,545	Personal responsibility
8.5	4,039	Choice of care

The calculations provided in the total column are meant to provide a sense of the relative importance of the issue category. Since the issues listed here are composites of various responses, the total points that each issue category received is meant to be a proxy for the number of issues that arose in each category.

Percent Total K

Should it be public policy that all Americans have affordable health care coverage?

[By public policy we mean that the stated public goal is set out in federal or state law.]

77.9%	109	1 Yes
22.1%	31	2 No

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Percent Total L

Which of the following statements most accurately represents your views?

20.0%	28	Providing coverage based on who you are (for example, people who have coverage through their employers or people who qualify for public programs because of age or because they are poor) as is the case currently
80.0%	112	Defining a level of services for everyone, regardless of their status, but with coverage assured only for that defined set of services

M-x

It would be difficult to define a level of services for everyone. A health plan that many people view as “typical” now covers these types of benefits, many of which are subject to copayments and deductibles:

Preventive Care—screenings, routine physicals, influenza and pneumonia

- immunizations, well child care, limited dental care

Physicians’ Care—inpatient services, outpatient surgery, related tests, home

- and office visits, medical emergency care

- Chiropractic Care

- Maternity Care

- Prescription Drugs

- Hospital/Facility Care—inpatient and outpatient services

- Physical, Occupational, and Speech Therapy

Mental Health and Substance Abuse—inpatient and outpatient facility and

- professional care

How would a basic package compare to this “typical” plan?

Rating Total M-1

Of the most frequent answers the group gave, what would you add?

9.0	847	Catastrophic care coverage
8.1	2,143	Home, long-term, and hospice care service coverage
8.5	689	Durable medical equipment
8.0	2,495	Dental, vision, and hearing care coverage
7.6	1,072	Education and preventive services

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Rating Total M-2

Of the most frequent answers the group gave, what would you take out?

6.1	675	Chiropractic care
5.3	259	Substance abuse
7.4	236	Physician and provider home and office visits

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Avg. N

On a scale of 1 (no input) to 10 (exclusive input), how much input should each of the following have in deciding what is in a basic benefit package?

5.1	N-1	Government
7.2	N-2	Medical professionals
4.5	N-3	Insurance companies
6.6	N-4	Employers
8.7	N-5	Consumers

Rating Total O-1

In getting health care, what is most important to you?

8.9	3,793	Accessibility
9.4	1,650	Affordability
9.2	1,416	Quality of care
8.7	1,030	Consumer choice

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Percent Total P

Should everyone be required to enroll in basic health care coverage - either private or public?

73.7%	98	1 Yes
26.3%	35	2 No

Percent Total Q

Should some people be responsible for paying more than others?

57.1%	76	1 Yes
42.9%	57	2 No

R

What criteria should be used for making some people pay more?

54	1	Family size
69	2	Health behaviors
67	3	Income
31	4	None

Percent Total S

Should public policy continue to use tax rules to encourage employer-based health insurance?

77.8%	105	1 Yes
22.2%	30	2 No

Percent Total T

Do you think government resources should be used to continue current programs that cover some people who can't otherwise afford it?

85.2%	115	1 Yes
14.8%	20	2 No

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U-x

Rating	Total	What should the responsibilities of individuals and families be in paying for health care?
8.2	2907	Individual responsibilities
7.5	1686	Contribute money or services
8.4	1242	Budget for health care, follow medical advice

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Percent Total W

How much more would you personally be willing to pay in a year (in premiums, taxes, or through other means) to support efforts that would result in every American having access to affordable, high quality health care coverage and services?

29.3%	34	1 \$0
14.7%	17	2 \$1 - \$100
12.1%	14	3 \$100 - \$299
17.2%	20	4 \$300 - \$999
10.3%	12	5 \$1000 or more
16.4%	19	6 Don't know

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Rating X-x

On a scale from 1 (low) to 10 (high), please rate each of the following public spending priorities to reach the goal of health care that works for all Americans.

8.7	X-1	Guaranteeing that there are enough health care providers, especially in areas such as inner cities & rural areas
9.2	X-2	Investing in public health programs to prevent disease, promote healthy lifestyles, and protect the public in the event of epidemics or disasters
8.6	X-3	Guaranteeing that all Americans have health insurance
8.5	X-4	Funding the development of computerized health information to improve the quality & efficiency of health care
7.9	X-5	Funding programs that help eliminate problems in access to or quality of care for minorities
8.5	X-6	Funding biomedical & technological research that can lead to advancements in the treatment & prevention of disease
8.8	X-7	Guaranteeing that all Americans get health care when they need it, through public "safety net" programs (if they can not afford it)."
8.6	X-8	Preserving Medicare & Medicaid

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Rating	Z-x
	If you believe it is important to ensure access to affordable, high quality health care coverage and services for all Americans, which of these proposals would you suggest for doing this? Please rate each of the following proposals on a scale from 1 (low) to 10 (high).
7.2	Z-1 Offer uninsured Americans income tax deductions, credits, or other financial assistance to help them purchase of private health insurance on their own.
7.7	Z-2 Expand state government programs for low-income people (eg. Medicaid & S-CHIP) to provide coverage for more people without health insurance.
4.8	Z-3 Rely on free-market competition among doctors, hospitals, other health care providers and insurance companies rather than having government define benefits and set prices.
7.5	Z-4 Open up enrollment in national federal programs like Medicare or the federal employees' health benefit program
8.3	Z-5 Expand current tax incentives available to employers & their employees to encourage employers to offer insurance to more workers & families
7.0	Z-6 Require businesses to offer health insurance to their employees
8.2	Z-7 Expand neighborhood health clinics
6.7	Z-8 Create a national health insurance program, financed by taxpayers, in which all Americans would get their insurance
7.3	Z-9 Require that all Americans enroll in basic health care coverage, either private or public
7.2	Z-10 Increase flexibility afforded states in how they use federal funds for state programs (such as Medicaid and S-CHIP) to maximize coverage

		What should be done to slow the growth of health care costs in America?
Rating	Total	SESSION A
8.6	3,812	Individual responsibilities
8.0	3,219	System reform
8.5	1,250	Price controls
7.8	1,390	Government mandates

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